



# Rule Up For Discussion

Amended Rule

WAC 230-40-120 (1)(c)

Limits on wagers in card games.

**ITEM 12(a) on the October 14, 2005, Commission Meeting Agenda. Statutory Authority 9.46.070 & 9.46.0282**

## **Who proposed the rule change?**

Recreational Gaming Association

## **Why is this rule change proposed?**

The wagering limit for poker is \$25. Poker wagering limits were increased from \$10 to \$25 in May 2000.

Dolores Chiechi, on behalf of the Recreational Gaming Association, is requesting wagering limits for poker games at house-banked card rooms be increased from \$25 to \$100. Nonhouse-banked card rooms' poker wagering limit would remain at \$25.

The change would significantly raise the stakes in poker games. For example, a poker player in a game with five wagering rounds, and four wagers and raises per wagering round, could bet as much as \$2,000 (\$100 x 4 x 5). Currently, a player's maximum wager is limited to \$500 (\$25 x 4 x 5). There could be additional security concerns for players, card rooms and their employees due to the increased amount of cash at the card room.

An increase in wagering limits is largely a policy matter, as it would not take additional staff time to regulate. Staff would continue to ensure compliance through routine regulatory visits. If licensees exceeded the \$100 wager limit, staff would follow-up and investigate the matter.

### **Policy Considerations**

May be perceived as an expansion of gambling, because it quadruples the current betting limits.

### **Regulatory Considerations**

Stricter card room controls would be necessary, such as surveillance and internal controls.

May increase the incentive to cheat.

May increase staff time investigating cheating allegations and processing administrative actions.

### **Attachments:**

Petition for Rule Change and letter dated 8/12/05

E-mail from Ms. Chiechi dated 8/16/05 clarifying the language in the petition.

Letter from Ms. Chiechi dated 8/23/05

Proposed amendment to WAC 230-40-120

Letter notifying Ms. Chiechi that the Petition will be discussed at the October 14, 2005, Commission meeting.

## **Statements against the proposed rule change.**

None.

## **Which licensees will be directly impacted?**

Card room licensees.

## **What are the potential impacts to the agency?**

None.

## **Staff recommendation.**

Whether or not to allow this is a policy decision for the Commission.

## **Proposed effective date.**

January 1, 2006.